



# Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report For Westport Elementary School

## What is SWAP?

The Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), established under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, requires every state to:

- ? Inventory land uses within the recharge areas of all public water supply sources;
- ? Assess the susceptibility of drinking water sources to contamination from these land uses; and
- ? Publicize the results to provide support for improved protection.

## SWAP and Water Quality

Susceptibility of a drinking water source does *not* imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests.

Water suppliers protect drinking water by monitoring for more than 100 chemicals, treating water supplies, and using source protection measures to ensure that safe water is delivered to the tap.

Prepared by the  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection,  
Bureau of Resource Protection,  
Drinking Water Program

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**Table 1: Public Water System (PWS) Information**

<b>PWS NAME</b>	Westport Elementary School
<b>PWS Address</b>	380 Old Country Road
<b>City/Town</b>	Westport, Massachusetts
<b>PWS ID Number</b>	4334017
<b>Local Contact</b>	Mike Duarte
<b>Phone Number</b>	508 636-1101

<b>Well Name</b>	<b>Source ID#</b>	<b>Zone I (in feet)</b>	<b>IWPA (in feet)</b>	<b>Source Susceptibility</b>
Well #1	4334017-01G	182	478	High

## Introduction

We are all concerned about the quality of the water we drink. Drinking water wells may be threatened by many potential sources of contamination, including septic systems, road salting, and improper disposal of hazardous materials. Citizens and local officials can work together to better protect these drinking water sources.

### Purpose of this report:

This report is a planning tool to support local and state efforts to improve water supply protection. By identifying land uses within water supply protection areas that may be potential sources of contamination the assessment helps focus protection efforts on appropriate best management practices (BMPs) and drinking water source protection measures. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) staff are available to provide information about funding and other resources that may be available to your community.

### This report includes:

1. Description of the Water System
2. Discussion of Land Uses within Protection Areas
3. Recommendations for Protection
4. Attachments, including a Map of the Protection Areas

## 1. Description of the Water System

The well for Westport Elementary School is a public water supply currently serving the schools students and staff. Well #1 is located in a well pit 500 feet south of the school. Well #1 is a bedrock well drilled to a depth of 400 feet. Based on the current Zone I of 182 feet and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA) of 478 feet, the average daily withdrawal for the well is limited to 3521 gallons per day. The Zone I and IWPA protective radii are based on metered water readings. Please refer to the attached map of Zone I and IWPA. Well #1 is located in a bedrock aquifer with a high vulnerability to contamination due to the absence of hydrogeologic barriers (i.e. clay) that can prevent contaminate migration. Emergency power is provided by two (2) generators, one natural gas and a diesel powered.

The well serving the Westport Elementary School is disinfected with chlorine. The

### What is a Protection Area?

A well's water supply protection area is the land around the well where protection activities should be focused. Each well has a Zone I protective radius and an Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

- **The Zone I** is the area that should be owned or controlled by the water supplier and limited to water supply activities.
- **The IWPA** is the larger area that is likely to contribute water to the well.

In many instances the IWPA does not include the entire land area that could contribute water to the well. Therefore, the well may be susceptible to contamination from activities outside of the IWPA that are not identified in this report.

### What is Susceptibility?

Susceptibility is a measure of a well's potential to become contaminated due to land uses and activities within the Zone I and Interim Wellhead Protection Area (IWPA).

Westport Elementary School is interconnected with the Westport Middle School to provide water in an emergency. A replacement well has been installed within 50 feet of the current well due to diminished capacity of existing Well #1. The new well is not online as water quality data is still being collected. For current information on monitoring results and treatment, please contact the Public Water System contact person listed above in Table 1.

## 2. Discussion of Land Uses in the Protection Areas

There are a number of land uses and activities within the drinking water supply protection areas that are potential sources of contamination.

#### Key issues include:

1. **Inappropriate Activities in Zone Is,**
2. **Underground Storage Tank (UST),**
3. **Athletic Fields,**
4. **Hazardous Materials/Waste Oil Storage,**
5. **Potential discharge of Industrial Wastewater to the septic system.**

The overall ranking of susceptibility to contamination for the well is High, based on the presence of at least one High threat land use or activity in the Zone I, as seen in Table 2.

1. **Zone Is** – Currently, the well does not meet DEP's restrictions, which only allow water supply related activities in Zone Is. Well #1's Zone I contains athletic fields. The public water supplier does own all land encompassed by the Zone 1. Please note that systems not meeting DEP Zone I requirements must get DEP approval and address Zone I issues prior to increasing water use or modifying systems. Examples of modification or expansion include the addition of buildings, temporary or permanent, and increased water use due to an increase of staff and students.

#### Recommendations:

- ✓ To the extent possible, remove all non-water supply activities from the Zone Is to comply with DEP's Zone I requirements.
- ✓ Do not use or store pesticides, fertilizers or road salt within the Zone I.
- ✓ If the school intends to continue using the structures, driveways, athletic fields and parking areas in the Zone 1, use BMPs and restrict activities that could pose a threat to the water supply.
- ✓ Drinking water protection signs were not posted at the time of the site visit. The Department recommends posting drinking water protection area signs at key

**Table 2: Table of Activities within the Water Supply Protection Areas**

Potential Contaminant Sources	Zone I	IWPA	Threat	Comments
Underground Storage Tank	No	Well #1	High	100 gallon diesel tank without secondary containment, leak detection or cathodic protection
Hazardous Material/Waste Oil storage, handling and use	No	Well #1	Moderate	Waste oil and small amounts of chemical storage
Athletic Fields	Well #1	Well #1	Moderate	Fertilizer and pesticide use
Industrial Wastewater	No	Well #1	Moderate	Boiler blowdown discharge to septic system
Parking lot, driveways & roads	No	Well #1	Moderate	Limit road salt usage and provide drainage away from wells
Septic System	No	Well #1	Low	Refer to attachment on septic systems

\* -For more information on Contaminants of Concern associated with individual facility types and land uses please see the SWAP Draft Land Use / Associated Contaminants Matrix on DEP's website - [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/).

## Glossary

**Zone I:** The area closest to a well; a 100 to 400 foot radius proportional to the well's pumping rate. To determine your Zone I radius, refer to the attached map.

**IWPA:** A 400-foot to ½ mile radius around a public water supply well proportional to its pumping rate; the area DEP recommends for protection in the absence of a defined Zone I. To determine IWPA radius, refer to the attached map.

**Zone II:** The primary recharge area defined by a hydrogeologic study.

**Aquifer:** An underground water-bearing layer of permeable material that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well.

**Hydrogeologic Barrier:** An underground layer of impermeable material that resists penetration by water.

**Recharge Area:** The surface area that contributes water to a well.

visibility locations.

2. **Underground Storage Tank** - Within the IWPA, a 100 gallon UST for diesel fuel is located just south of the school's garage. According to school staff the tank is believed to have been installed in 1978. If managed improperly, UST's can be potential source contamination due to leaks or spills of the chemicals they store. According to 527 CMR 9.00 storage tanks that do not have an acceptable form of leak protection or cathodic protection shall have tank tested at the owner's expense. Additionally, all existing underground storage tanks are required to have been retrofitted with spill containment manhole and overflow protection devices on or before September 30, 1994 or removed from the ground.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ Consult with the local fire department for specific code requirements regarding your USTs.
- ✓ Any modifications to the UST must be accomplished in a manner consistent with Massachusetts's plumbing, building, and fire code requirements.
- ✓ Upgrade to propane or natural gas for back-up power sources.

3. **Athletic Fields** - There are playing fields located within the Zone I and IWPA of Well #1. Over-application of pesticides and fertilizers on athletic fields is a potential source of contaminants to the water supply.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Use BMPs for applying, handling and storing of pesticides and fertilizers.
- ✓ Refer to attachments, "Protecting Water Sources from Fertilizer" and, "Protecting Groundwater from Pesticides".

4. **Hazardous Materials/Waste Oil** - A maintenance garage located within the southern portion of the elementary school is within IWPA. The garage contained two (2) drums of waste oil (1-55 gal. drum, 1-35 gal. drum), gas cans, paint thinner and other small amounts of petroleum products, cleaners etc.

### Recommendation:

- ✓ The school is currently not registered as a generator of hazardous waste or waste oil. Review enclosed document "A SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL QUANTITY GENERATORS OF HAZARDOUS WASTE" to determine your status and regulatory requirements. Enclosed is a registration form for you to fill out and

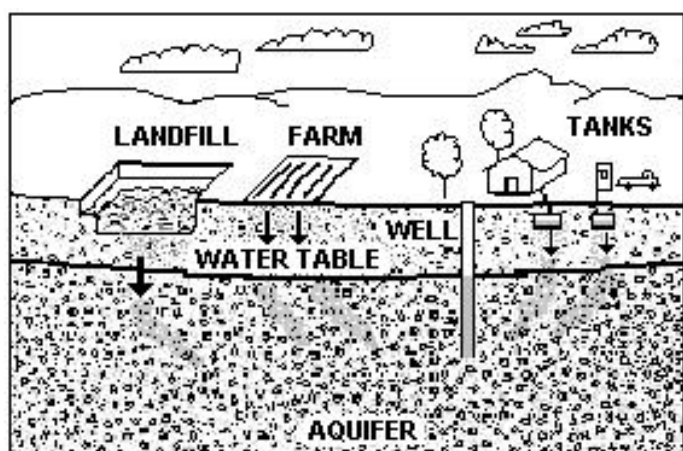


Figure 1: Example of how a well could become contaminated by different land uses and activities.

return to the Department.

5. **Industrial Wastewater**- Discharge from the boiler blow down is required to go to a tight tank or sewer. A sump was observed in the boiler room. The sump receives all boiler room drainage and discharge via a sump pump to the septic system.

### Recommendations:

- ✓ Eliminate non-sanitary wastewater discharges to on-site septic systems. Please contact Jeff Gould in the Department's Water Pollution Control section at 508-946-2757 in order to discuss your management options.

### Other activities noted during the assessment

Storm water for the parking area south of the school is routed by catch basins and culverts to an area outside of the IWPA, approximately 500 feet northeast of the well. As flowing storm water travels, it picks up debris and contaminants from streets,

#### For More Information:

Contact Mark Dakers in DEP's Lakeville Office at (508) 946 - 2847 for more information and for assistance in improving current protection measures.

More information relating to drinking water and source protection is available on the Drinking Water Program web site at:  
[www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/)

#### Additional Documents:

To help with source protection efforts, more information is available by request or online at [www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/dws/), including:

1. Water Supply Protection Guidance Materials such as model regulations, Best Management Practice information, and general water supply protection information.
2. MA DEP SWAP Strategy
3. Land Use Pollution Potential Matrix
4. Draft Land/Associated Contaminants Matrix

Copies of this assessment have been provided to the public water supplier, town boards, and the local media.

and hazardous waste.

- V Work with your community to ensure that stormwater runoff from local roads is directed away from the well and is treated according to DEP guidance.

#### Facilities Management:

- V Implement standard operating procedures regarding proper storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials. To learn more, see the hazardous materials guidance manual at [www.state.ma.us/dep/bwp/dhm/dhmpubs.html](http://www.state.ma.us/dep/bwp/dhm/dhmpubs.html).
- V Eliminate non-sanitary wastewater discharges to on-site septic systems. Instead, in areas using hazardous materials, discharge drains to a tight tank or sanitary sewer.

parking areas and lawns. Common potential contaminants include lawn chemicals, pet waste, leakage from dumpsters, household hazardous waste, and contaminants from vehicle leaks, maintenance, washing or accidents. Work with the Town to have the catch basins inspected, maintained, and cleaned on a regular schedule. Additionally, street and parking lot sweeping reduces the amount of potential contaminants in storm runoff.

The school's septic system is not located within the IWPA of the well (approximately 800 feet north of the well). However, if the septic system fails or is not properly maintained it could be a potential source of microbial contamination. Improper disposal of household hazardous chemicals to septic systems is a potential source of contamination to the water supply. Staff should be instructed in the proper disposal of spent household chemicals (Include custodial staff, groundskeeper and certified operator). Septic system component should be located, inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Refer to the attachments for more information regarding septic systems.

A dairy farm abuts the school property to the north. Encourage the farmer to seek assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in addressing manure management issues.

Implementing the following recommendations will reduce the system's susceptibility to contamination.

### 3. Protection Recommendations

Implementing protection measures and best management practices (BMPs) will reduce the wells' susceptibility to contamination. Westport Elementary School is commended for its previous program of UST removal and its conversion of the heating system from oil to natural gas. Westport Elementary School should review and adopt the **key recommendations above** and the following:

#### Zone I:

- V Keep non-water supply activities out of the Zone I.
- V Consider well relocation if Zone I threats cannot be mitigated.
- V Prohibit public access to the well pit for Well #1 by locking facilities, gating roads, and posting signs.
- V Well #1 is a vault/pit installation. Pit installations for water supply wells are not approved by the Department due to the safety concerns associated with confined spaces, as well as the potential for the flooding of the Wellhead that could affect sanitary quality of the water being delivered. Consider extending the Wellhead to 18 inches above the final grade of the surface as part of future modifications to Well #1.

#### Training and Education:

- V Train staff on proper hazardous material use, disposal, emergency response, and best management practices; include custodial staff, groundskeepers, certified operator, and food preparation staff. Post labels as appropriate on raw materials

- ✓ Remove hazardous materials from rooms with floor drains that drain to the ground or septic systems.
- ✓ Floor drains in areas where hazardous materials or wastes might reach them need to drain to a tight tank, be sealed, or be connected to a sanitary sewer.

### **Planning:**

- ✓ Work with local officials in Westport to include the facility IWPA in Aquifer Protection District Bylaws and to assist you in improving protection.
- ✓ Have a plan to address short-term water shortages and long-term water demands. Keep the phone number of a bottled water company readily available.
- ✓ Supplement the SWAP assessment with additional local information and incorporate it into water supply educational efforts. Use a land use inventory to assist in setting priorities, focusing inspections, and creating educational activities.

### **Funding:**

The Department's Wellhead Grant Protection Program provides funds to assist public water suppliers in addressing Wellhead protection through local projects. Protection recommendations discussed in this document may be eligible for funding under the "Wellhead Protection Grant Program". For additional information, please refer to the attached program fact sheet. Please note: each program year the Department posts a new Request for Response for the Grant program (RFR). Other funding opportunities are described in "Grant and Loan Programs: Opportunities for Watershed Protection, Planning and Implementation" at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/brp/mf/files/glprgm.pdf>.

These recommendations are only part of your ongoing local drinking water source protection. Citizens and community officials should use this SWAP report to spur discussion of local drinking water protection measures.

## **4 Attachments**

- Map of the Public Water Supply (PWS) Protection Area.
- Recommended Source Protection Measures Factsheet
- Your Septic System Brochure
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Use Fact sheets
- Industrial Floor Drains Brochure
- Healthy Schools Fact Sheets
- Wellhead Protection Grant Program Fact Sheet
- A Summary of Requirements for Small Quantity Generators of Hazardous Waste
- Generator Registration Form
- Source Protection Sign Order Form